

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 DOTE-00 GAC-01 TRSE-00

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R 290850 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4130

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, ECON, MT

SUBJ: DRYDOCKS PROBLEMS

REF: VALLETTA 0595

1. ON MAR 26 A GROUP OF DISGRUNTLED DRYDOCKS WORKERS, NUMBERING FROM 3 TO 500 GATHERED AT THE GWU METAL WORKERS SECTION OFFICE, LOCATED INSIDE THE YARD, TO PROTEST NEW WORK RULES. THE MAJOR COMPLAINTS CENTERED UPON PAYMENT OF WAGE ARREARS, WAGE ANOMALIES BETWEEN INDUSTRIALS AND NON- INDUSTRIALS, AND THE LOSS OF SHIFT PREMIUM.

2. SECTION SECRETARY, MIKE SEYCHELL, MANAGED TO CALM WORKERS BY PROMISING MEETING FOLLOWING MORNING FOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM GROUP WITH HIMSELF, OTHER GWU OFFICIALS, AND MEDIATOR DANNY CREMONA.

3. AN ELECTED TEN- MAN DELEGATION FROM THE GROUP MET AT GWU HEADQUARTERS MORNING MAR 27. ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER
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MEETING, WORKERS ACCEPTED POINTS MADE BY GWU OFFICIALS THAT NEW WORK RULES ARE BEST POSSIBLE UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS, THAT RULES ARE ONLY TEMPORARY AND WILL BE REVIEWED, AND THAT IN FUTURE THOSE WORKERS HIT HARDEST WOULD BE GIVEN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

4. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT YARD OPERATING NORMALLY, WITH SOME 250 INDUSTRIALS REPORTING FOR BACKUP WORK YESTERDAY EVENING, AND THAT ONLY ABOUT 30 DISSIDENTS SHOWED UP AT ANOTHER PORTEST MEETING SCHEDULED FOR YESTERDAY' S LUNCH BREAK.

5. LAORRIZONT (GWU) MAR 28 EDITORIAL STATES THAT MINTOFF' S " ERUPTION" AT MAR 15 MEETING WAS BECAUSE " HE LOVES THE WORKERS, JUST LIKE A FATHER LOVES HIS CHILDREN, AND DOES NOT WANT THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS INDUSTRY TO THE DETRIMENT OF SO MANY HUNDREDS OF WORKERS. WE ARE CERTAIN THE TIME WILL COME WHEN THE DRYDOCKS WORKERS WILL BLESS THEIR LEADERS AND THEY THEMSELVES WILL BE PROUD OF HAVING SUCCEEDED TO SAVE THE DOCKYARD."

6. COMMENT: WE ANTICIPATE THAT DISSATISFACTION AMONG DRYDOCK WORKERS WILL CONTINUE TO FERMENT AND BUBBLE TO THE SURFACE FROM TIME TO TIME. SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR MINTOFF COULD ARISE, DESPITE GWU PASSIVITY, IF IN FACT NEW RULES LEAD TO SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF TAKE- HOME PAY OF INDUSTRIALS. GETZ

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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